

Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) Statistics 2013 Entry

This bulletin presents, in a Welsh context, some of the main features relating to applicants accepted to full-time degree and HND courses, starting in Autumn 2013 at UK higher education institutions. The data was first published by the Universities & Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) in December 2013 and further information can be found on the UCAS web site.

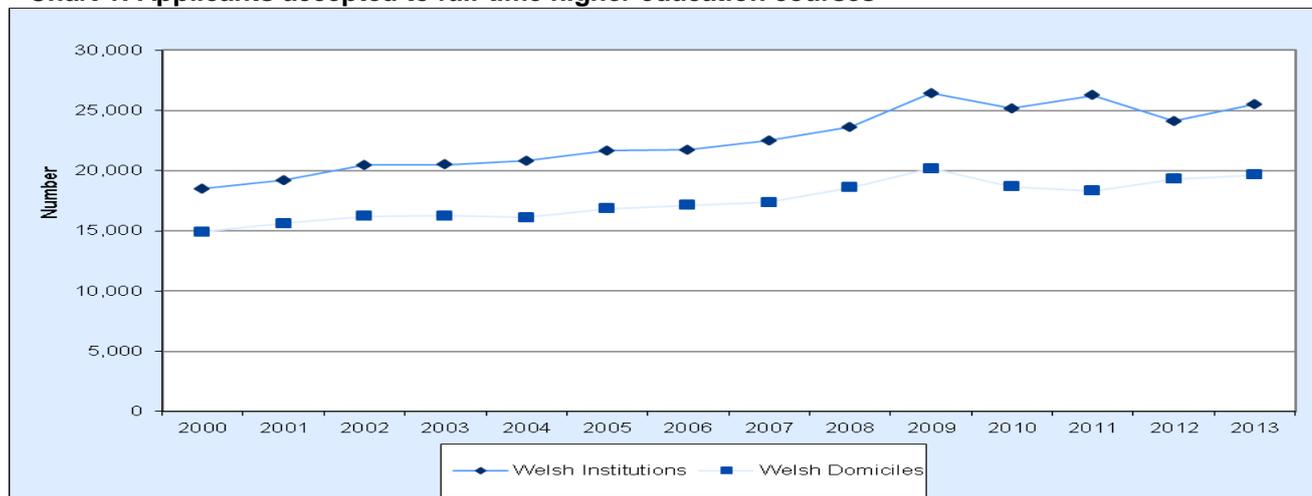
http://www.ucas.ac.uk/about_us/stat_services/

We have recently consulted on the future method of releasing these data, as a result this will be the last bulletin published in this series. The information will still be available from the UCAS web site (see Note 1.2)

Summary

- Prior to 2010 there was a year on year increase in the number of applicants accepted by **Welsh Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)**. Figures have fluctuated over the last four years but remain above the 2008 figure. (*Chart 1*).
- There was a six per cent increase in applications compared with 2012, and overall the number was 38 per cent higher than in 2000. This reversed the eight per cent decrease in applications between 2011 and 2012.
- There were 19,663 accepted Welsh domiciled applicants to UK institutions, a two per cent increase on 2012, and a 32 per cent increase compared with 2000.
- The number of accepted applicants from non-UK countries to Welsh institutions increased by six per cent in the 2013 cycle compared with 2012, after having fallen by eight per cent in the previous cycle.

Chart 1: Applicants accepted to full-time higher education courses



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Welsh Government

Context

There has been considerable change to tuition fee and statutory student support regimes throughout the UK since 2000. However since the devolution of student finance in 2006, the differences between the amount and type of student support on offer between the different countries in the UK have become more significant,

This is the second round of applications since the reforms to tuition fees and higher education funding in Wales, announced by the Minister for Education and Skills in November 2010, following the introduction of higher tuition fees in England.

The reforms introduced by the Welsh Government from September 2012 mean that the basic tuition fee in Wales increased to £4,000 per annum and higher education institutions (HEIs) are able to charge tuition fees up to £9,000 per annum, providing they demonstrate a commitment to widening access and other strategic objectives through fee plans approved by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW).

Students who normally live in Wales have been protected from any real term increase in tuition fees wherever they study (in the UK) in the form of a tuition fee grant paid through the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales.

Since the announcement, the Welsh Government has issued a policy statement on higher education which is available on the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/highereducation/policy-statement/?lang=en>

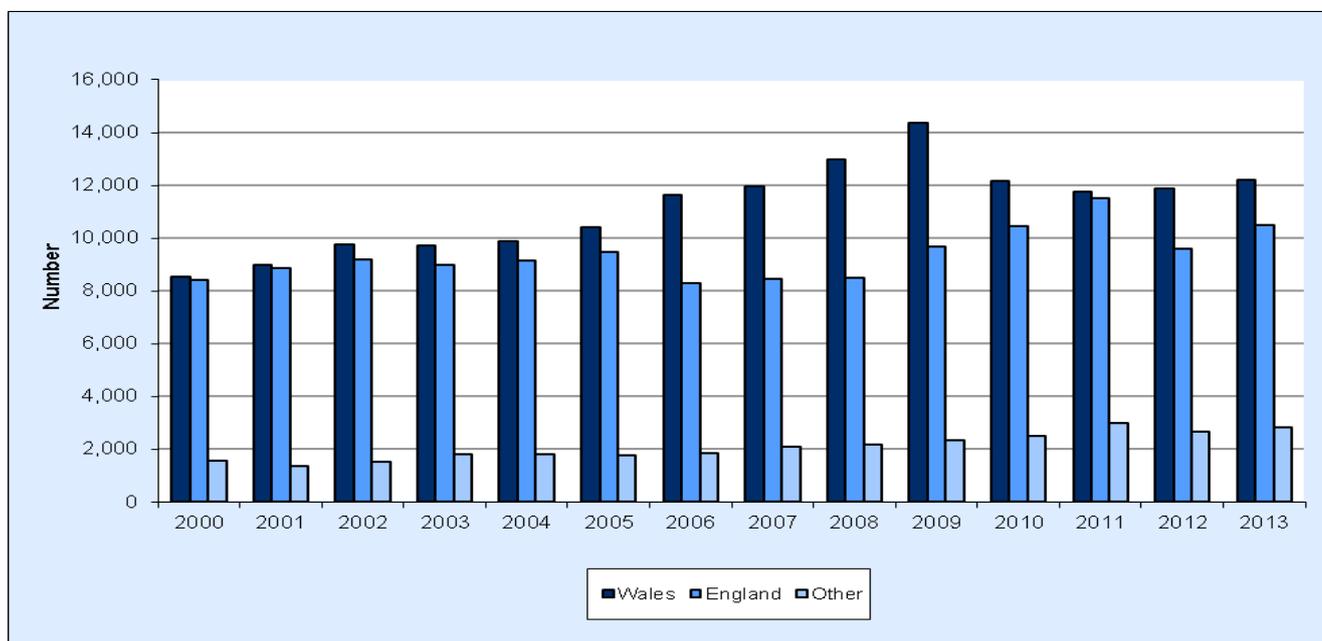
The statement sets a new vision of higher education in Wales, as we approach 2020. The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) corporate strategy sets out the performance indicators associated with For Our Future, available via the following link:

[HEFCW | Corporate Strategy](#)

Applicants accepted to Welsh institutions, 2013 entry

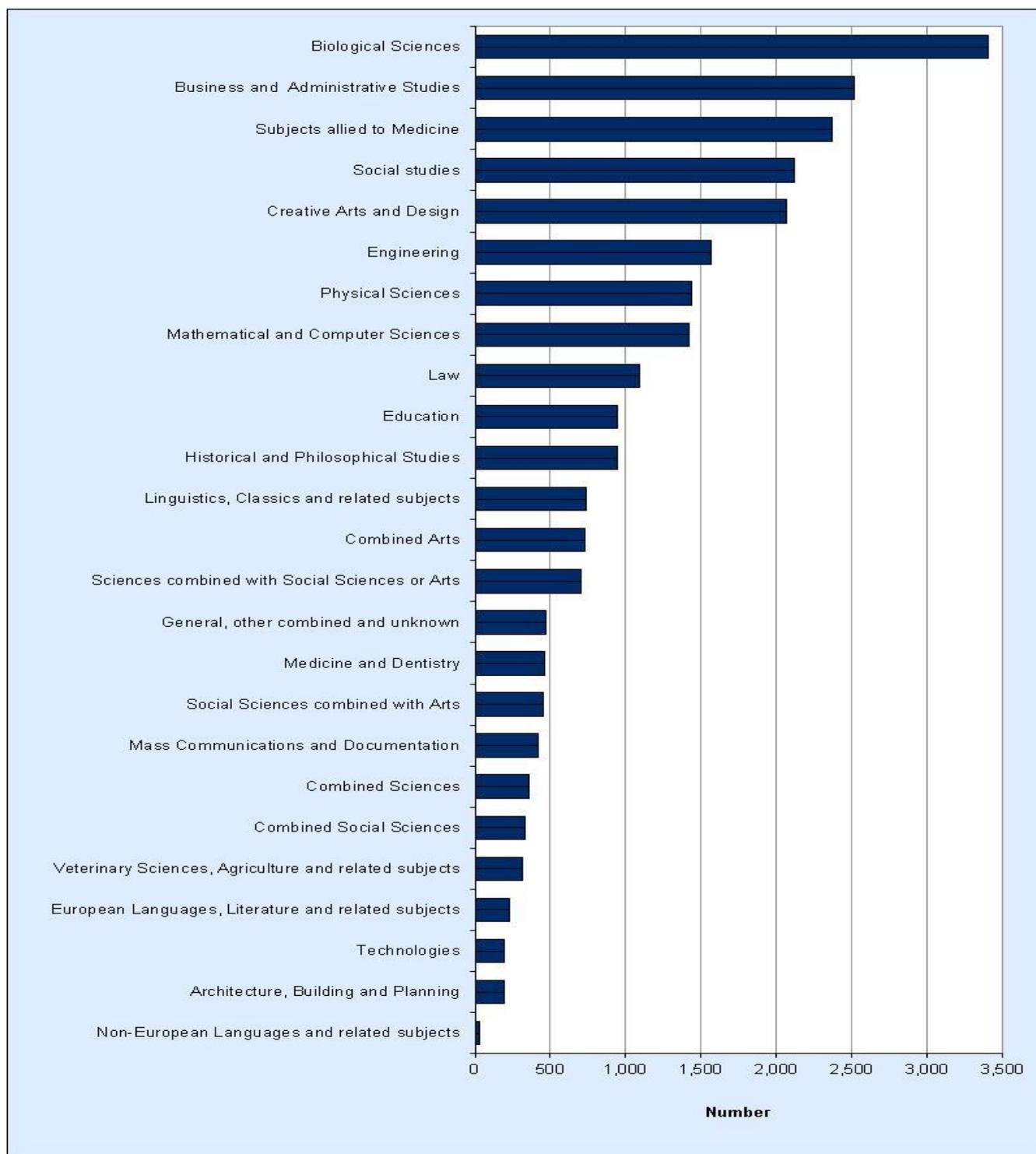
- There were 25,511 applicants accepted by Welsh institutions. This was a six per cent increase compared with 2012, and 38 per cent higher than in 2000. (*Chart 1, Table 1.1*)
- 48 per cent of all applicants accepted by Welsh institutions were from Wales. This was one percentage point lower than in 2012. (*Chart 2, Table 1.1, Table 1.2*)

Chart 2: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by country of domicile



- The number of accepted applications by English domiciled students to Welsh institutions increased by nine per cent compared with 2012 entry figures. This followed a 17 per cent decrease in the previous year. (Chart 2, Table 1.1)
- 41 per cent of accepted applicants to Welsh institutions were from England and of these 28 per cent were from the South West and 20 per cent from the South East. 10 per cent of accepted applicants came from overseas with 60 per cent of these from Non-EU countries. (Table 1.2)
- 78 per cent of applicants accepted by Welsh institutions were aged under 21, the same as the previous year whilst the 21 to 24 year old age group accounted for 12 per cent of accepted applicants, also the same as the previous year. (Table 1.3)

Chart 3: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by subject of study, 2013 entry

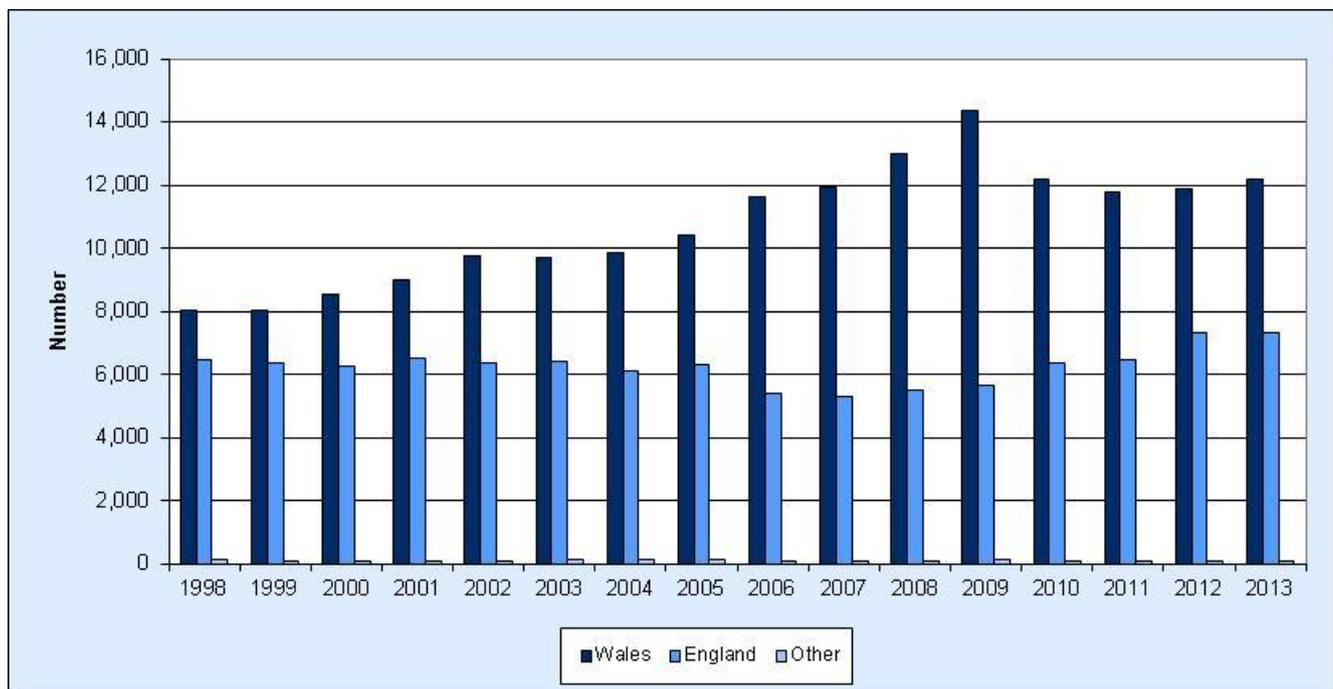


- For accepted applicants the most popular subjects were Biological Sciences (13 per cent), Business and Administrative Studies (10 per cent) and Subjects Allied to Medicine (9 per cent). The first two were also the two most popular in the previous year. (Chart 3, Table 1.4)
- Accepted applicants to Engineering and Technologies subjects were mostly male (87 per cent and 82 per cent respectively), while 77 per cent of accepted applicants to Education and 79 per cent of accepted applicants to Subjects allied to Medicine were female. Overall 52 per cent of successful applicants to Welsh HEIs were female, one per cent lower than in 2012. (Table 1.4)
- 1,130 successful applicants to Welsh institutions deferred their enrolment until 2013. Of all deferred enrolments 69 per cent were English domiciled, a slightly smaller proportion than in the previous year. (Table 1.1a)

Welsh domiciled applicants accepted to UK institutions, 2013 entry

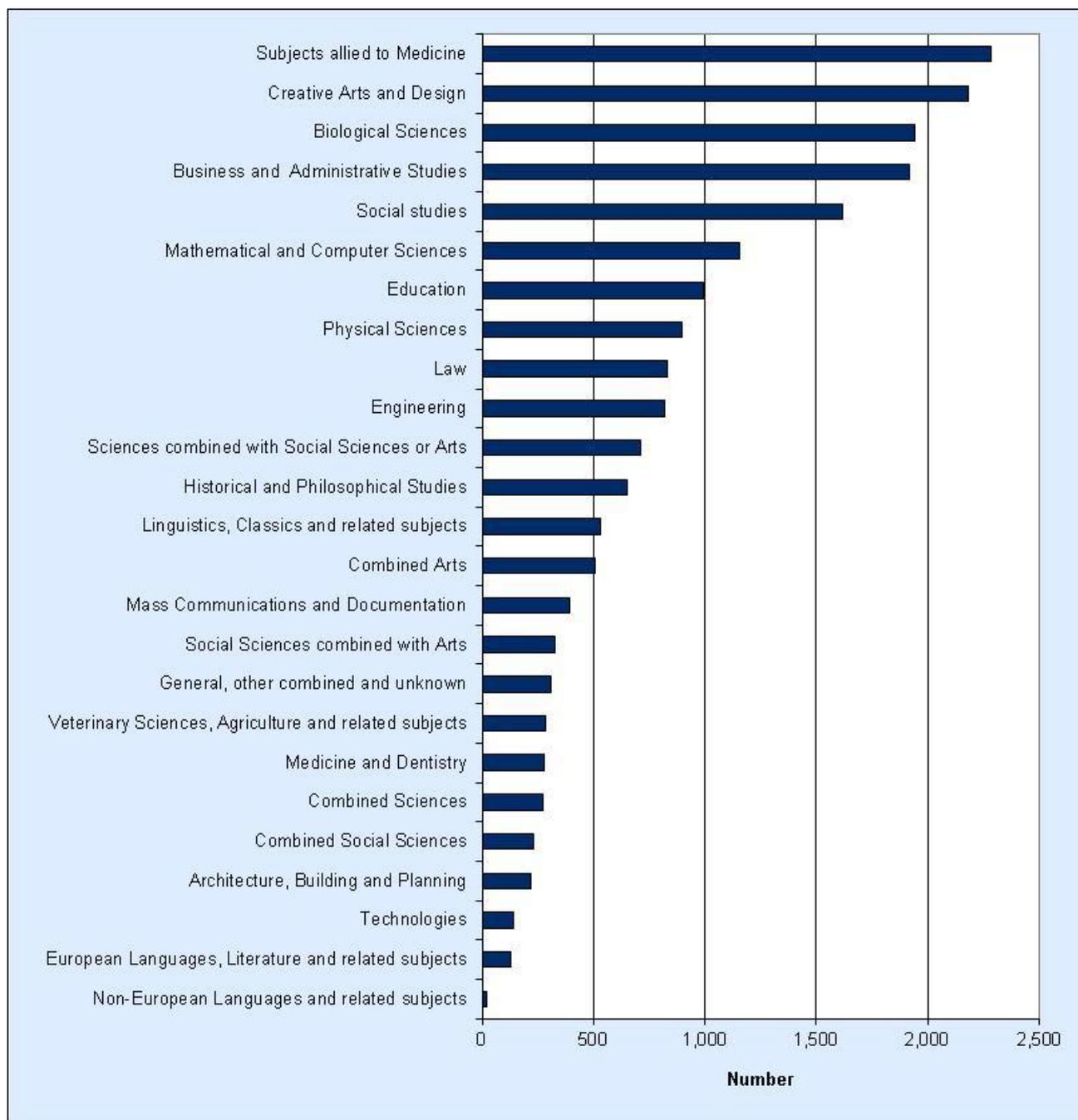
- There were 19,663 accepted Welsh domiciled applicants to UK institutions, a two per cent increase on 2012, and 32 per cent increase compared with 2000. (Table 2.1)
- The number of accepted Welsh domiciled applicants to English institutions increased by one per cent, the fifth consecutive year there had been an increase. (Chart 1, Table 2.1)

Chart 4: Welsh domiciles: By country of accepting institution



- 62 per cent of Welsh domiciled acceptances were at Welsh institutions, the same proportion as in 2012. This was lower than the peak in 2009, but five percentage points higher than in 2000. (Chart 4, Table 2.1)
- Less than one per cent of Welsh domiciled acceptances were by institutions in Scotland or Northern Ireland. (Table 2.2)
- 76 per cent of Welsh applicants accepted by UK institutions were under 21 years of age, one percentage point lower than for 2012 entry. (Table 2.3)

Chart 5: Welsh domiciles: By subject of study, 2013 entry



- For accepted Welsh domiciled applicants the most popular subjects were Subjects allied to Medicine (12 per cent), Creative Arts and Design (11 per cent). These subjects were also the most popular subjects for accepted applicants in the three previous years. (*Chart 5, Table 2.4*)
- 91 per cent of accepted applicants to Engineering subjects were male and 80 per cent of accepted applicants to Subjects Allied to Medicine were female. Overall, 57 per cent of accepted Welsh domiciled applicants were female. (*Table 2.4*)
- 710 successful Welsh domiciled applicants to UK HEIs deferred their enrolment. Of these deferred enrolments 46 per cent were to Welsh HEIs. (*Table 2.1a*)

Tables

Table 1.1: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by country of domicile and year of entry

Year	UK domiciled					Overseas		Unknown or stateless	Total
	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Other UK	EU	Non-EU		
									Number
2000	8,530	8,429	90	124	-	746	602	1	18,522
2001	8,993	8,851	84	96	-	583	602	2	19,211
2002	9,771	9,189	77	93	9	612	733	-	20,484
2003	9,726	8,966	71	92	20	632	997	1	20,505
2004	9,882	9,133	65	107	20	671	932	-	20,810
2005	10,400	9,471	64	109	11	686	910	2	21,653
2006	11,616	8,286	58	110	16	743	919	1	21,749
2007	11,945	8,445	44	101	38	779	1,133	3	22,488
2008	12,982	8,477	67	109	4	831	1,157	12	23,639
2009	14,373	9,694	52	117	4	1,078	1,086	17	26,421
2010	12,178	10,469	55	169	-	1,044	1,240	7	25,162
2011	11,764	11,497	67	217	-	1,044	1,642	18	26,249
2012	11,875	9,577	53	145	-	1,025	1,453	-	24,128
2013	12,192	10,475	68	158	-	1,048	1,570	-	25,511
									Percentage
2000	46	46	-	1	-	4	3	-	100
2001	47	46	-	-	-	3	3	-	100
2002	48	45	-	-	-	3	4	-	100
2003	47	44	-	-	-	3	5	-	100
2004	47	44	-	1	-	3	4	-	100
2005	48	44	-	1	-	3	4	-	100
2006	53	38	-	1	-	3	4	-	100
2007	53	38	-	-	-	3	5	-	100
2008	55	36	-	-	-	4	5	-	100
2009	54	37	-	-	-	4	4	-	100
2010	48	42	-	1	-	4	5	-	100
2011	45	44	-	1	-	4	6	-	100
2012	49	40	-	1	-	4	6	-	100
2013	48	41	-	1	-	4	6	-	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Notes:

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 1.1a: Welsh institutions: Deferred acceptances by country of domicile, year of application and year of deferred entry (new methodology)

Year of application	Year of deferred entry	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total
2008	2009	480	990	10	0	1,480
2009	2010	480	1,040	10	10	1,540
2010	2011	400	1,070	0	10	1,480
2011	2012	290	390	0	10	690
2012	2013	240	690	0	0	930
2013	2014	330	780	10	10	1,130

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

(a) Deferred applicants are included in other tables according to their year of application - see Notes: 2.6

(b) UCAS have revised the methodology of classifying deferred acceptances - see Notes: 2.6 and 3.6

Table 1.2: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by country or region, 2013 entry

Country or region of domicile	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	5,415	45	5,060	38	10,475	41
North East	61	1	60	-	121	-
Yorkshire & the Humber	175	1	149	1	324	1
North West ^(b)	543	4	576	4	1,119	4
East Midlands	247	2	286	2	533	2
West Midlands	890	7	845	6	1,735	7
Eastern	417	3	306	2	723	3
Greater London	493	4	387	3	880	3
South East	1,087	9	989	7	2,076	8
South West	1,502	12	1,462	11	2,964	12
Wales	5,247	43	6,945	52	12,192	48
Northern Ireland	72	1	86	1	158	1
Scotland	32	-	36	-	68	-
Other	..	-	..	-	11	-
Total overseas	1,368	11	1,239	9	2,607	10
Africa	93	1	74	-	167	1
Americas	39	-	65	-	104	-
Australasia	..	-	..	-	5	-
Europe (EU)	523	-	525	4	1,048	4
Europe (non EU)	46	-	55	-	101	-
Far East	528	4	465	3	993	4
Middle East	136	1	53	-	189	1
Total ^(c)	12,138	100	13,373	100	25,511	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

Notes:

- (a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.
- (b) North West includes Merseyside.
- (c) Includes those of unknown region of domicile or stateless.
- .. Not shown due to UCAS disclosure rules.

Table 1.3: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by age group

Year	20 and under		21 to 24		25 to 39		40 and over		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2001	15,502	81	1,830	10	1,464	8	415	2	19,211	100
2002	16,418	80	1,995	10	1,654	8	417	2	20,484	100
2003	16,300	79	2,027	10	1,721	8	457	2	20,505	100
2004	16,388	79	2,048	10	1,897	9	477	2	20,810	100
2005	17,213	79	2,154	10	1,830	8	456	2	21,653	100
2006	17,153	79	2,286	11	1,797	8	513	2	21,749	100
2007	17,817	79	2,315	10	1,885	8	471	2	22,488	100
2008	18,597	79	2,541	11	1,981	8	520	2	23,639	100
2009	20,505	78	3,006	11	2,250	9	660	2	26,421	100
2010	19,793	79	2,866	11	2,018	8	485	2	25,162	100
2011	20,832	79	2,995	11	1,986	8	436	2	26,249	100
2012	18,906	78	2,852	12	1,931	8	439	2	24,128	100
2013	19,943	78	2,953	12	2,109	8	506	2	25,511	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

- (a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 1.4: Welsh institutions: Applicants accepted by subject of study and gender, 2013 Entry

JACS Subject Group	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Medicine and Dentistry	190	2	270	2	460	2
Subjects allied to Medicine	494	4	1,878	14	2,372	9
Biological Sciences	1,564	13	1,841	14	3,405	13
Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects	145	1	166	1	311	1
Physical Sciences	972	8	469	4	1,441	6
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	1,139	9	279	2	1,418	6
Engineering	1,368	11	197	1	1,565	6
Technologies	161	1	36	-	197	1
Architecture, Building and Planning	112	1	84	1	196	1
Social studies	810	7	1,313	10	2,123	8
Law	395	3	701	5	1,096	4
Business and Administrative Studies	1,389	11	1,126	8	2,515	10
Mass Communications and Documentation	183	2	235	2	418	2
Linguistics, Classics and related subjects	185	2	550	4	735	3
European Languages, Literature and related subjects	82	1	143	1	225	1
Non-European Languages and related subjects	14	-	16	-	30	-
Historical and Philosophical Studies	505	4	442	3	947	4
Creative Arts and Design	838	7	1,234	9	2,072	8
Education	214	2	733	5	947	4
Combined Arts	231	2	495	4	726	3
Combined Sciences	229	2	125	1	354	1
Combined Social Sciences	117	1	219	2	336	1
Sciences combined with Social Sciences or Arts	407	3	296	2	703	3
Social Sciences combined with Arts	196	2	253	2	449	2
General, other combined and unknown	198	2	272	2	470	2
Total	12,138	100	13,373	100	25,511	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

(b) For further information see paragraph 2.8 in the Notes section.

Table 2.1: Welsh domiciles: Accepted applicants by country of accepting institution and year of entry

Year	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total
					<i>Number</i>
2000	8,530	6,262	115	2	14,909
2001	8,993	6,527	112	4	15,636
2002	9,771	6,365	101	2	16,239
2003	9,726	6,423	121	6	16,276
2004	9,882	6,102	123	6	16,113
2005	10,400	6,324	132	7	16,863
2006	11,616	5,434	94	4	17,148
2007	11,945	5,306	108	7	17,366
2008	12,982	5,491	112	10	18,595
2009	14,373	5,679	131	13	20,196
2010	12,178	6,393	92	8	18,671
2011	11,764	6,462	93	8	18,327
2012	11,875	7,313	115	4	19,307
2013	12,192	7,361	105	5	19,663
					<i>Percentage</i>
2000	57	42	1	-	100
2001	58	42	1	-	100
2002	60	39	1	-	100
2003	60	39	1	-	100
2004	61	38	1	-	100
2005	62	38	1	-	100
2006	68	32	1	-	100
2007	69	31	1	-	100
2008	70	30	1	-	100
2009	71	28	1	-	100
2010	65	34	-	-	100
2011	64	35	1	-	100
2012	62	38	1	-	100
2013	62	37	1	-	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 2.1a: Welsh domiciles: Deferred acceptances by country of institution, year of application and year of deferred entry (new methodology)

Year of application	Year of deferred entry	Wales	England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Total
2008	2009	480	410	20	0	910
2009	2010	480	360	20	0	860
2010	2011	400	410	0	0	810
2011	2012	290	230	10	0	530
2012	2013	240	350	10	0	600
2013	2014	330	370	10	0	710

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

(a) Deferred applicants are included in other tables according to their year of application - see Notes: 2.6

(b) UCAS have revised the methodology of classifying deferred acceptances - see Notes: 2.6 and 3.5

Table 2.2: Welsh domiciles: Accepted applicants by country or region of accepting institution, 2013 entry

Country or region of accepting institution	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
England	3,181	37	4,180	37	7,361	37
North East	85	1	88	1	173	1
Yorkshire & the Humber	224	3	280	3	504	3
North West ^(b)	815	10	1,178	11	1,993	10
East Midlands	209	2	227	2	436	2
West Midlands	314	4	440	4	754	4
Eastern	80	1	87	1	167	1
Greater London	317	4	410	4	727	4
South East	361	4	511	5	872	4
South West	776	9	959	9	1,735	9
Wales	5,247	62	6,945	62	12,192	62
Northern Ireland	..	-	..	-	5	-
Scotland	54	-	51	0	105	1
Total	8,484	100	11,179	100	19,663	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

(b) North West includes Merseyside.

.. Not shown due to disclosure rules

Table 2.3: Welsh domiciles: Accepted applicants by age group

Year	20 and under		21 and over		All	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
2001	12,672	81	2,964	19	15,636	100
2002	13,035	80	3,204	20	16,239	100
2003	13,038	80	3,238	20	16,276	100
2004	12,764	79	3,349	21	16,113	100
2005	13,377	79	3,486	21	16,863	100
2006	13,516	79	3,632	21	17,148	100
2007	13,592	78	3,774	22	17,366	100
2008	14,351	77	4,244	23	18,595	100
2009	15,331	76	4,865	24	20,196	100
2010	14,488	78	4,183	22	18,671	100
2011	14,269	78	4,058	22	18,327	100
2012	14,915	77	4,392	23	19,307	100
2013	14,957	76	4,706	24	19,663	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 2.4: Welsh domiciles: Accepted applicants by subject of study and gender, 2013 entry

JACS Subject Group(b)	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Medicine and Dentistry	113	1	168	2	281	1
Subjects allied to Medicine	463	5	1,825	16	2,288	12
Biological Sciences	862	10	1,081	10	1,943	10
Veterinary Sciences, Agriculture and related subjects	108	1	180	2	288	1
Physical Sciences	590	7	305	3	895	5
Mathematical and Computer Sciences	910	11	246	2	1,156	6
Engineering	749	9	73	1	822	4
Technologies	118	1	26	-	144	1
Architecture, Building and Planning	151	2	70	1	221	1
Social studies	471	6	1,149	10	1,620	8
Law	255	3	574	5	829	4
Business and Administrative Studies	973	11	944	8	1,917	10
Mass Communications and Documentation	171	2	221	2	392	2
Linguistics, Classics and related subjects	144	2	386	3	530	3
European Languages, Literature and related subjects	32	-	96	1	128	1
Non-European Languages and related subjects	10	-	11	-	21	-
Historical and Philosophical Studies	284	3	365	3	649	3
Creative Arts and Design	841	10	1,342	12	2,183	11
Education	208	2	785	7	993	5
Combined Arts	171	2	338	3	509	3
Combined Sciences	149	2	122	1	271	1
Combined Social Sciences	75	1	155	1	230	1
Sciences combined with Social Sciences or Arts	372	4	342	3	714	4
Social Sciences combined with Arts	134	2	196	2	330	2
General, other combined and unknown	130	2	179	2	309	2
Total	8,484	100	11,179	100	19,663	100

Source: Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)

(a) Percentages may not add to totals due to rounding.

(b) For further information see paragraph 2.8 in the Notes section.

Notes

1. Publications

1.1 UCAS publication

UCAS published an end of year cycle report in December 2013 that details statistics for the 2013 application cycle which can be downloaded from the link given below:

<http://www.ucas.com/data-analysis/key-analysis#>

1.2 Future publication of bulletins

There has been a [recent consultation](#) on the way the Welsh Government releases statistics. The consultation covered a range of proposals relating to official statistics products, including Higher Education statistics.

In particular, the consultation proposed that to reduce duplication statistical releases and bulletins the Welsh Government publish, in relation to UCAS data, should be stopped. The UCAS information will continue to be collected and published, via UCAS, but the associated publication of the Statistical Releases/Bulletins will be stopped. Users will be able to continue to access all the UCAS collected information on the same schedule as now from the UCAS web site and where possible we will ensure users are notified of these updates. We will be publishing a full update on our plans following the consultation exercise shortly.

2. Definitions

2.1 Accepted applicants (accepts)

The numbers of accepted applicants are indicative of, but not necessarily identical to, to the numbers of full time students who actually enrol at an institution via the UCAS scheme.

2.2 Age

For England and Wales, ages are defined on 31 August, for Northern Ireland on the 1 July and for Scotland on the 28 February the following year. Defining ages in this way matches the assignment of children to school cohorts. For applicants domiciled outside the UK then the cohort cut off for England and Wales is used.

2.3 Applicants

UCAS applicants are those who apply to full-time, undergraduate higher education courses offered by universities or colleges in membership of the UCAS scheme.

2.4 Applications

Prior to 2008 entry, applicants could make up to six applications to different courses and/or institutions, subsequently the limit is a maximum of five applications. Medicine (from 2000), Dentistry and Veterinary Science (from 2001) applicants were limited to four applications.

2.5 Coverage

UCAS membership is limited to universities and colleges offering higher education courses, and extends to all UK universities (excluding the Open University), most colleges of higher education and some colleges of further education who are UCAS members. The full list of institutions for the 2013 entry can be viewed via the link below:

<http://www.ucas.com/applications-choices-and-accepted-applicants-institution-2013-cycle>

Figures in this bulletin are the number of applicants that have been accepted, through the UCAS scheme, to full-time degree, foundation degree and HND courses starting in Autumn 2012.

2.6 Deferred entry

UCAS revised their methodology of classifying deferred acceptances for those applying in the 2012 cycle. (See Notes: 3.6) Deferred acceptance is now based on the academic year that a student begins their course – this means a student is counted as deferred if the course begins in the following academic year, for applicants in the 2013 cycle this would be from autumn 2014 onwards. Tables 1.1a and 2.1a show the numbers of deferred accepted applicants by domicile and accepting country of institution respectively.

2.7 Region

Applicant country and/or region is based on the home postcode (UK) or the area of permanent residence (overseas) whilst the UK country or region of accepting institution is derived using the postcode of the institutional headquarters. Tables 1.2 and 2.2 use the same England regional breakdown as that employed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) when matching postcodes to the ONS Postcode Directory field “Region”.

2.8 Subject

UCAS subject classifications employ the Joint Academic Coding System (JACS). JACS, introduced for 2002 entry, replaces UCAS’ Standard Classification of Academic Subject (SCAS), which was used up to and including 2001 entry. Usually presented by broad subject area (Subject group) or detailed subject of study (Subject line). This change in classification means that the data for 2002 entry onwards are not directly comparable with data for previous years.

Where applicants apply to more than one subject area, the subject group listed most frequently on the application form is counted (preferred subject). For some subjects, this creates the impression that there are more people accepted than applied.

3. Key quality information

This section provides a summary of information on this output against five dimensions of quality: Relevance, Accuracy, Timeliness and Punctuality, Accessibility and Clarity and Comparability.

3.1 Relevance

UCAS is the organisation responsible for managing applications to full-time, undergraduate courses in the UK, together with applications through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR), the Conservatoires UK Admission Service (CUKAS) and the UK Postgraduate Application and Statistical Service (UKPASS).

The statistics are used both within and outside the Welsh Government to monitor educational trends and as a baseline for further analysis of the underlying data. Some of the key users are:

- Ministers and the Members Research Service in the National Assembly for Wales;
- Officials in the Welsh Government;
- Other government departments;
- The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales;
- Higher Education Institutions and representative bodies;
- Students, researchers, and academics;
- Individual citizens, private companies, and the media;

These statistics are used in a variety of ways. Some examples of these are:

- General background and research;
- Inclusions in reports and briefings;

- Advice to Ministers;
- To inform the education policy development and decision-making process in Wales;

3.2 Accuracy

This bulletin reports on the number of applicants through UCAS that are accepted. Whilst UCAS data provides a useful, timely indicator of trends in higher education, it does not represent a full coverage of the higher education sector. Applicants through UCAS are mainly full-time undergraduates, but even this group does not fully reflect the number of enrolments at UK HEIs, since it is possible to enter via other routes. In addition, the degree of correlation between UCAS' figures and total enrolments varies across institutions depending on an HEI's profile in terms of provision and student type.

3.3 Timeliness and Punctuality

UCAS published final applicant statistics for the 2013 admissions cycle in December 2013 and their annual datasets, from which data in this bulletin is derived, in January 2014.

3.4 Accessibility and Clarity

This statistical bulletin is pre-announced and then published on the Statistics section of the Welsh Assembly website.

3.5 Comparability

UCAS is responsible for managing applications to higher education throughout the UK so comparison of statistics with other UK countries is possible. Please use the following link for UCAS media releases: http://www.ucas.com/about_us/media_enquiries/media_releases/

3.6 Data quality issues

Previous issues of this bulletin included a table outlining the ethnicity of Welsh domiciled applicants. This table has been removed this year because UCAS no longer provide ethnicity data at this level of detail.

Similarly, a table providing information relating to the socio-economic classification of accepted students was removed from 2009 onwards, as the information was no longer included in UCAS' annual datasets.

As mentioned in the Notes: 2.6, UCAS have introduced a new method of classifying deferred acceptances. This is now based on the academic year rather than the calendar year as was the case prior to the 2012 entry cycle. This earlier methodology meant that if a student was accepted to a course that began between the September and December immediately after being accepted then they would be classed as an immediate acceptance (as in the new methodology). However, a student beginning a course from the following January onwards would have been counted as a deferred acceptance. Tables 1.1a and 2.1a in this bulletin present five years of data using the revised method – these tables are not comparable with the same named tables in earlier issues of the bulletin.

When analysing 2008 and 2009 UCAS applicant numbers, it should be noted that the NMAS service for nursing and midwifery diploma courses was incorporated into UCAS for the first time in 2008. All NMAS courses are offered in England, and most NMAS applicants are English. Therefore this change does not affect figures for Welsh institutions, and is unlikely to have much impact on figures for Welsh domiciles.

Applications previously processed by CATCH (Centralised Applications to Nursing and Midwifery Training Clearing House) were processed by UCAS for the first time in 2010.

For further information about the UCAS data and specific data issues:

http://www.ucas.com/about_us/stat_services/